The Indian manufacturers that are licensed by the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) to produce Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) and their annual production capacity is as under:

- M/s Panacea Biotech Ltd. New Delhi with annual production capacity of 16000 lakh doses.
- M/s Haffkine Biopharmaceuticals Corporation Ltd. Mumbai having annual production capacity of 12000 lakh doses.
- M/s Bharat Biotech Ltd. Hyderabad having annual production capacity of 7000 lakh doses.

Mouth Cancer and Health Warnings

†849. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact, that the number of patients suferfing from mouth cancer throughout the world is highest in our country;

(b) whether the World Health Organisation has warned that smoking tobacco is the main cause of mouth cancer and its use should be controlled;

(c) whether several countries of the world print warnings in bold letters and clear words in the form of pictures on different types of packets of tobacco; and

(d) if so, why it is not being printed clearly in our country alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Madam. As per the information furnished by ICMR, the cancer of the oral cavity is highest in Indian registries compared to all registries across the world.

(b) Yes Madam. As per World Health Organization tobacco use in any form is the main cause of mouth cancers. The framework convention on tobacco control has been negotiated and this lays out key demand and supply reduction strategies.

(c) Yes Madam. It is true that several countries such as European countries, Canada, Australia, Thailand etc. print pictorial as well as text messages on tobacco packets.

(d) Section 8 of the Tobacco Control Act, 2003 provides for specified health warnings to be displayed on packs of the all tobacco products. Pursuant to the provisions of the Act, comprehensive packaging and labeling Rules, 2006 have already been notified. These rules are being further modified and effective date will be announced soon.